

MAR 11 1947

The Honorable John Taber, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Taber:

The Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior has requested an appropriation of \$80,000 for the fiscal year 1948 for its program of Foreign Mineral Attaches. The Central Intelligence Group is most interested in this project, and I wish to take this opportunity of placing my support of this appropriation on the record.

Intelligence regarding the status abroad of essential minerals and their substitutes is of prime importance to our national security. We must know the complete facts regarding mineral production, reserves, exports and imports, stock piles and consumption, in order to prepare analyses of the internal economies of foreign nations, including their war-making potentials. This information is also important in its effect on American procurement of strategic and critical materials in this field.

It would seem best that Foreign Mineral Attaches should be provided by the Bureau of Mines. Because of the expert qualifications of the personnel of the Bureau, the information returned to the United States will first be analyzed and evaluated by them from their professional angle. The resulting intelligence will be furnished to the Central Intelligence Group, and will be used in the over-all evaluations necessary to strategic and national policy intelligence. The work has previously been carried on by a variety of agencies, many of them temporary in nature. Any substitute program which the Central Intelligence Group might have to undertake would not be as satisfactory. The loss of this source of intelligence material would be most serious indeed.

I am taking the liberty of suggesting that your Committee consider this letter in connection with the Department of Interior appropriations.

Sincerely,